

RESPONSE TO DETAILED ACTION:

Response to Section 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,216) in view of Shieh (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,571), Darden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,941,841), Heung (U.S. Patent No. 5,079,438), Lwee (U.S. Patent No. 5,324,204), Klatt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,488) and admitted art.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-17 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Darden et al., Shieh, Uwabo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,745), Pollard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,171,183), Wallace et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,417), Lwee, Klatt, Tsai, and Heung.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pollard in view of Uwabo et al., Wallace, Darden et al., Tsai, Lwee, Klatt, Tsai, and Heung. Each of the nine references will be discussed briefly below. The references, either alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Tsai (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,216) relates to an IC card expansion slot assembly adapted for connecting an external hard disk drive to a mobile computer to increase its hard disk drive memory capacity. The device, however, does not removably mount in a rack. Tsai also does not disclose a docking assembly, plural offset PC card slots or a fan.

Shieh (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,571) relates to a card device that attaches to a printer port on an exterior of a computer. The card device is designed for a single card and does not teach or suggest use with a plurality of cards, offset cards, a fan, or removable mounting in a rack.

Darden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,941,841) relates to a carrier and rack for a memory storage device such as a hard drive. Darden et al. does not apply this teaching of a removable slide in cartridge for making a removable device for reading PC cards of different sizes. Darden et al. also does not teach offset cards or a fan.

Heung (U.S. Patent No. 5,079,438) relates to an electronic circuit module fan assembly including a circuit module housing, circuit modules and a fan module. In Heung,

the fan is on a separate board (Fig. 3) and can be replaced by a board having circuitry (Fig 4). Heung, however, does not teach or suggest that a fan can be used in a carrier and docking assembly for a PC card device.

Lwee (U.S. Patent No. 5,324,204) relates to a card device having an internal storage space for inserting one or more storage devices. However, Lwee does not disclose different sized cards, offset cards, or a fan.

Klatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,488) relates to a card reader for reading plural cards that are different sizes. However, the plural cards are not front loading as recited in Claim 1. Rather, a PCMCIA card is placed into the housing of the card reader parallel to the base plate such that between the base plate and the PCMCIA card, an insertion channel for a chip card is formed. The chip card is then loaded from the top. Furthermore, Klatt fails to teach or suggest that such a device can be used in a carrier and docking assembly or with a fan.

Uwabo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,745) relates to a data recording and reproducing device including a first memory unit which is selected from a FDD (flexible disk drive) unit and a HDD (hard disk drive) unit, and a second memory unit used for a memory card which is standardized in PCMCIA. The first and second memory units are superimposed upon each other so as to have a height of less than one inch. The device however, is not designed for a removable carrier as claimed in the present application. Uwabo et al. does not have plural slots, offset slots, a sliding docking assembly, or a fan.

Pollard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,171,183) relates to a mounting bracket for installing an optical disk drive into the 5.25 form factor disk drive slot of a microcomputer enclosure. Pollard, however, does not apply this teaching to suggest a device that connects to a memory storage device bay, offset slots for different sized cards, plural cards, or a fan.

Wallace et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,417) relates to a very small computer memory card that is densely packed with a large number of flash EEPROM integrated circuit chips. The cards utilize a controller board 11 with a two PC card receiving slots 21 and 23 of the same size. Wallace does not teach or suggest a removable device for

interconnecting PC cards of different sizes to a computer. Wallace et al. also does not disclose a docking system, offset card slots, or a fan.

As the Examiner is aware, "when prior references require selective combination by the court to render obvious a subsequent invention, there must be some reason for the combination other than the hindsight gleaned from the invention itself." *Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Fail*, 774 F.2d at 1143, 227 USPQ at 551, citing *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577 and n. 14, 221 USPQ 929, 933 and n. 14 (Fed. Cir. 1984). In the present case, none of the nine cited references either alone or in combination, suggest or provide any motivation for the combination proposed in the office action.

Claim 1 recites in part a carrier and docking assembly wherein the carrier is slidably mountable in the docking assembly and has an opening in the front defining plural offset PC card slots for receiving plural PC cards.

Claim 7 recites a carrier and docking assembly wherein a PC card device mounts in the carrier and has plural offset slots for receiving plural PC cards.

Claim 13 recites a carrier and docking assembly wherein the carrier has plural offset slots and a fan mounted in the carrier for cooling the carrier. The fan electrically connects with the docking assembly when the carrier slides into the docking assembly to enable the fan to cool the computer.

Claim 15 recites a carrier and a card device mounted in the carrier and being adapted with plural offset card slots for receiving plural cards.

As set forth above, none of the prior art teaches or suggests, either alone or in combination, a carrier and docking assembly for interconnecting a PC card device to a memory storage device bay of a personal computer having a carrier slidably mountable in the docking adapter with a front opening defining plural offset PC card slots for receiving plural PC cards as recited in Claim 1. Thus, while some of the references teach one or more internal storage spaces, the combination carrier/docking assembly for plural offset PC cards is not taught nor suggested. In addition, it would not have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the cited references for an offset slot device with a removable carrier as claimed. Thus, Claims 1 and 3-6 should be allowed.

Claims 7-11 and 13-17 recite in part a carrier and docking assembly, or a carrier and card device having plural offset card slots. As set forth above, the plural offset card slots for receiving plural cards are not taught by the cited references, nor would it be obvious to include plural offset slots with a carrier and docking assembly, or a carrier and card device as claimed. Accordingly, Claims 7-11 and 13-17 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application are respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution may be expedited

Respectfully submitted,

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